

CRC'S MAY ITEMS OF INTEREST

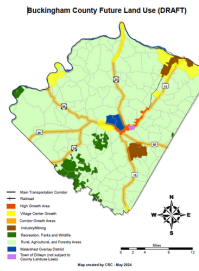
Grant Assistance:

- **VDACS, AFID Infrastructure Grant:** The CRC assisted Virginia Food Works with a grant application to purchase a variety of equipment for the Prince Edward County Cannery.
- **DCR, Recreational Trails Grant:** The CRC assisted Lunenburg County and the Towns of Victoria and Kenbridge with an application to DCR's Recreational Trails Grant Program to expand the Tobacco Heritage Trail. The Town of Victoria served as the applicant.
- **CENTRA:** The CRC assisted the Drakes Branch Volunteer Fire Department with an application to purchase a variety of equipment to perform lifesaving duties.

Project Updates:

- **SEED Innovation Hub Project Update:** EDA has authorized Longwood Real Estate Foundation to move forward with construction. The lowest bidder, English Construction, has been awarded and construction of the project has begun.
- **Town of Crewe, CBDG Planning Grant:** The Town of Crewe has received grant funding from DHCD to conduct a Planning Grant for the Town's Business District. The CRC is assisting the Town of Crewe with the procurement of a consulting firm to complete a series of studies on the business district.

Buckingham County Comprehensive Plan Update



The CRC staff attended the Planning Commission Work Session on May 20th. At this meeting, the Commission reviewed changes to Draft Section Three (Community Facilities), discussed the Future Land Use Map, and reviewed an updated schedule of remaining work. At the next Planning Commission meeting, CRC staff will begin discussions on Draft Section Five (Land Use) and review the changes to the Future Land Use Map.

Lunenburg/Kenbridge/Victoria Comprehensive Plan Update



The CRC did not hold a working committee meeting in May. The CRC worked with Committee members to develop a citizen survey and create advertisement flyers with a QR code. The Citizen Survey was released on May 13th in both English and in Spanish. The survey was distributed to students through the school system and had been placed at various locations throughout the County to encourage citizen participation in the survey. As of May 24th, the CRC has received 108 surveys.

Creation of the Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance

CRC staff corresponded with local business owners and local government staff to schedule three meetings for the Refinement Taskforce and the Evaluation Committee. Both the Refinement Taskforce and the Evaluation Committee have met. The Refinement Taskforce reviewed the strategies proposed from the draft prospectus and refined the plan to include measurable outcomes. This draft plan will be used to develop the Case for Investment to attract potential investors. The Evaluations Committee reviewed the original list of potential prospects from the Feasibility Study and refined the list. Convergent Non-profit Solutions is in the process of developing the Case of Investment to move forward with the capital campaign.

CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



FEMA Region III has given the plan Approval Pending Adoption (preliminary approval). Local Adoptions are underway. As of May 28th, 15 out of the 18 covered localities have adopted the Plan. Once all localities have adopted the plan, it will be sent back to FEMA for final approval.

CRC Affordable Workforce Housing Development Program



The CRC has a remaining \$225,357.46 in grant funding that has not been obligated to a housing partner or CRC staff time. The CRC released a third round of grant funding to seek funding applications from experienced housing partners to establish affordable workforce housing units throughout the CRC region by June 30, 2025. The CRC received five applications and awarded the remaining \$225,357.46 in grant funding to the Town of Blackstone. Congratulations to the Town of Blackstone!



Piedmont Habitat has completed the remaining two homes on E California Ave in Crewe. CRC staff completed a final compliance review on both properties.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

VDACS AFID Planning Grant: Open; Rolling Basis

VDOF, Virginia Trees for Clean Water: Open - Rolling Basis

DHCD CBDG Planning Grant: Opens 6/15/24

DHCD CBDG Grant: Closes 6/12/24

VOF, Preservation Trust Fund: Summer 2024

VEDP, Site Remediation Grant: Fall 2024

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grants: Summer 2024

DEQ, Litter Prevention and Recycling Fund: Closes 6/17/24

The CRC provides free grant writing services for member localities and local 501C3 non-profits.